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Chairperson: Mr. Saleh (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Lebanon)

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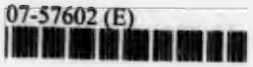

In the absence of Ms. Lintonen (Finland), Mr. Saleh (Lebanon), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 41: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.7)

Draft resolution on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

1. **Mr. Tag-Eldin** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.7, informed the Committee that Brunei Darussalam, Guinea, Namibia, Nicaragua and Senegal had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution was a reflection of the Secretary-General's report (A/62/75-E/2007/13), which demonstrated that the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continued to deepen the economic and social hardships of the Palestinian people. The majority of the paragraphs were similar to those of General Assembly resolution 61/184. However, some amended and updated language had been included and one new paragraph had been inserted: the sixteenth preambular paragraph, which expressed the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

Agenda item 52: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.8 and L.10)

Draft resolution on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

2. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.8 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Draft resolution on international trade and development

3. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.10 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that a consensus on the draft resolution was extremely important in view of the current impasse in the Doha Round, which endangered the entire multilateral trading system.

(b) International financial system and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.9)

Draft resolution on the international financial system and development

4. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.9 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 56: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/2)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/62/71-E/2007/46, A/62/216 and A/62/303)

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/62/136; A/C.2/62/L.11)

(c) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (*continued*) (A/62/85 and A/62/116; CAC/COSP/2006/12)

Draft resolution on the International Year of Astronomy, 2009

5. **Mr. Mantovani** (Italy) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.11. Astronomy was one of the oldest sciences and had deep roots in virtually every culture. Astronomical research and education promoted international cooperation and contributed fundamentally to the evolution of other sciences and applications in a wide range of fields. The declaration of 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy had been supported by resolution 33 C/25, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in October 2005 with a view to highlighting the importance of astronomical sciences and their contribution to knowledge and development. Such a declaration could also play a crucial role in raising public awareness of the importance of astronomy for sustainable development and providing access to astronomical research and education, particularly in developing countries.

6. **Ms. Gomes** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, said that the international community had long recognized that the outcomes of globalization were unevenly distributed. Far greater attention must be given to the social dimensions of globalization and to the equitable access opportunities it provided to tackle poverty and to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The European Union would continue to work to ensure that globalization was a positive force for all. In that regard, special attention should be given to the least developed countries and to African countries, which needed to increase their exports, attract more foreign direct investment and build solid institutions responsive to the needs of their people.

7. Countries should integrate trade policies into their national development strategies and plans. The European Union strongly believed in open markets, progressive trade liberalization and stronger multilateral rules. It therefore remained fully committed to the Doha Development Agenda and would continue to work with the World Trade Organization (WTO) for a successful, balanced and comprehensive outcome to the Doha Round.

8. The European Union strongly supported the widely accepted principle that good governance and sound institutions were prerequisites for sustainable development and poverty eradication. The social and environmental policies outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of international commitments, policies and processes on the scope and implementation of national development strategies (A/62/303, para. 33) would help to prevent the marginalization of various groups, particularly women. In line with the report, the European Union believed that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies could not be overemphasized. Domestic resource mobilization was therefore an issue of the utmost importance, particularly because it was not in the long-term interest of any country to rely excessively on foreign capital.

9. Revenues from natural resources could be a substantial source of finance for development, provided there was sufficient transparency in the management of such revenues. The international community should therefore examine ways to increase the quality and transparency of contracts and financial flows related to natural resources and should work towards the development of global codes of conduct and standards for transparency. Governments should contribute to the establishment of an enabling environment for business, not only to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) but also to increase local private sector investment. In that context, public investment in basic infrastructure and the development of human capital and institutional capacity were all relevant for sustained economic growth. Public-private sector partnerships should also be encouraged.

10. The new challenges posed by the negative effects of climate change were already affecting the poorest and most vulnerable groups in a disproportionate manner. The international community must therefore work towards the objective of combining efforts to combat climate change with development efforts.

11. The European Union welcomed the suggestion in the report that national Governments should involve all stakeholders in policymaking processes, including civil society and the private sector. National development could also be fostered by regional integration and cooperation, including by strengthening regional trade agreements. New opportunities must be pursued to open markets and to tackle trade distortions comprehensively, both within the multilateral system and through bilateral and regional initiatives.

12. Given the untapped potential for closer regional cooperation, the European Union was currently negotiating economic partnership agreements with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries with a view to establishing regional markets. The forthcoming European Union-Africa summit to be held in Lisbon would further reinforce the European Union's commitment to establishing a new platform for international cooperation based on four interrelated pillars: development, good governance and human rights, peace and stability, and regional trade and integration.

13. The European Union continued to support the reforms under way at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to increase the voice and

participation of developing countries in global governance and global rule setting.

14. The European Union recognized the need for donors to align their overall support to recipient countries' national development strategies, institutions and procedures and reiterated its commitment to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. In that regard, in 2005 European Union member States had adopted a timetable for achieving the 0.7 per cent target of gross national income (GNI) as official development assistance (ODA) by 2015, and had set an intermediate target of 0.56 per cent by 2010. The European Union had collectively surpassed the 2006 ODA target of 0.39 per cent of GNI and was currently providing 57 per cent of global ODA.

15. The increasingly relevant role that some developing countries played in shaping the world economy and the emergence of new donors from within developing countries should be encouraged within a framework that ensured the quality and effectiveness of aid and provided for adequate coordination and division of labour among donors. Such a framework should be based on the rules and best practices developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Union and the international financing institutions.

16. Some States members of the European Union were playing a leading role in voluntary initiatives aimed at mobilizing predictable and stable sources of financing, such as the International Facility for Immunization and the International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID). With regard to the role of the United Nations system, the proposals relating to policy implication packages that analysed the impact of international agreements on national economies would require further discussion.

17. Welcoming the report by the Secretary-General on science and technology for development (A/62/136), she said that the European Union considered the projects and initiatives conducted by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to be highly relevant and that it attached particular importance to the Network of Centres of Excellence; the science, technology and innovation policy reviews; and the inter-agency cooperation network on technology (UN-Biotech). It also highly valued activities that helped to bridge the digital divide and assisted developing countries, particularly in Africa, with the establishment of research and development initiatives and the promotion of technology and know-how. The European Union also commended any approach that helped to raise awareness about the relevance of integrating science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies.

18. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on preventing and combating corrupt practices (A/62/116), she said that corruption, a major obstacle to sustainable development and democratic governance, must be addressed through an integrated strategy at the international level. The European Union had taken important steps in that regard by implementing the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions in 1999 and by strengthening the anti-bribery legislation and systems of European Union member States.

19. In that connection, the United Nations Convention against Corruption should be implemented as soon as possible. Chapter V of the Convention, in particular, would play an important role in preventing and combating corrupt practices. The European Union endorsed the work being undertaken by the United Nations in that regard but underscored the importance of pursing common principles and taking joint action. For that reason, in March 2007 the European Union had adopted a common position for the establishment of asset recovery bureaux, which would help to trace and identify assets of illicit origin.

20. The European Union was also negotiating a common position with regard to the two working groups of the United Nations Convention against Corruption dealing with the review mechanism and technical assistance. A meaningful review mechanism and constructive dialogue on technical assistance would play a key role in the operationalization of the Convention. In that regard, the European Union stressed the importance of all modalities for judicial cooperation on the recovery of assets and of instruments used for gathering data, such as the UNODC checklist recently used to identify technical assistance needs. The European Union welcomed the opportunity to further discuss those issues during the second session of the Conference of the States Parties

to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to be held in Bali in 2008.

21. **Mr. Daniel** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), welcomed the call by the Secretary-General in his report (A/62/303) for the implementation of national development strategies which balanced international obligations with national priorities. However, the ability of CARICOM to implement goal-oriented national development strategies was being impeded by the negative impact of globalization. While globalization had created opportunities for some countries, the small island developing States of CARICOM had suffered the most from globalization and remained marginalized in the rapidly globalized world economy. Managing globalization for the benefit of all was therefore a major concern for CARICOM.

22. Global economic liberalizing forces were making it increasingly difficult for CARICOM countries to shape their own national policies and to control their own economies, particularly since existing mechanisms for the governance of globalization were enforced selectively by the rich and powerful when it suited their interests. In that respect, the World Bank should abandon its attempts to micromanage the economies of the Caribbean Community through conditionalities and focus its efforts on development activities in the region. WTO should also take into account the fact that countries had different levels of income and development and emphasize poverty eradication and job creation as much as trade expansion and liberalization. However, recent WTO rulings had adversely affected the banana-, rice- and sugar-producing countries of CARICOM. Such examples of globalization, particularly the continued use of iniquitous agricultural subsidies by developed countries, would not bring CARICOM farmers any closer to the development assistance that they had been promised and so desperately needed.

23. While globalization facilitated labour mobility across national borders, conflicts arose when developed countries attempted to restrict such movement. The national development strategies of CARICOM were also threatened by the brain drain from the region. CARICOM welcomed the holding of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006, which had reinforced the important nexus between those two issues. It strongly believed that the benefits of migration could be enhanced through cooperation between countries of origin and destination. Since international migration was a fact of life, CARICOM suggested that the equivalent of the most-favoured-nation principle could provide a basic foundation to create a mutually beneficial environment for migrants and their countries of origin and destination.

24. CARICOM acknowledged the complexities of globalization and called on the international community to provide it with the human, financial and technical resources it would need to reduce poverty, improve its economic performance and care for its environment, as well as additional assistance to combat the effects of climate change. The international community should also undertake efforts to reform the existing multilateral trading architecture in order to increase its credibility, legitimacy and effectiveness.

25. **Mr. Chidyausiku** (Zimbabwe), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that for globalization to work, an all-inclusive and equitable global agenda must be pursued. Developed countries should fully implement all their commitments to developing countries. The external debt crisis should be addressed in a way that allowed developing countries to pursue sustainable development and meet the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

26. He stressed the need for the satisfactory conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. The SADC subregion would be able to achieve sustainable development if it received the right level of foreign direct investment. It could record a higher growth rate if it received a fair price for its commodities. Developing countries should be given special and differential treatment, taking into account their adjustment challenges while assisting them with capacity-building to prepare them for global integration. It was also important to operationalize the Aid for Trade Initiative to assist developing countries in addressing supply-side constraints and building capacity.

27. The SADC countries had embarked on an accelerated integration process with a view to addressing constraints relating to market size, lack of outlets to the sea, inadequacy of infrastructure, and lack of adequate transit and trade-facilitation facilities

in member States. The leaders of SADC planned to establish a free trade area in 2008.

28. The continuing digital divide between developed and developing countries undermined efforts to achieve equitable integration of developing countries into the global economy. The Southern African Development Community recognized the efforts of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and UNCTAD to assist developing countries with policy reviews in science, technology and innovation. The United Nations system should continue coordinating and initiating programmes to help developing countries promote science and technology for development. Developed countries should provide assistance to bridge the technological gap by promoting technology transfer that encouraged diffusion of technology through research and development and science education. The intellectual property rights regime should be reviewed to enable developing countries to have access to relevant knowledge and technology. Intellectual property rights regimes should not hinder the availability of lifesaving medicines at affordable prices or the right of developing countries to have their traditional knowledge protected. It was worrying that the information and communications technologies (ICT) gap within and between countries was widening. The forces of globalization should be harnessed in such a way as to allow rural communities to have access to and benefit from ICT.

29. **Ms. Jahan** (Bangladesh) said that her Government had taken strong reform measures against corruption. It now had an adequately empowered anti-corruption commission with resources and personnel at its disposal to effectively tackle the problem of corruption. Anti-money-laundering efforts were being strengthened in consultation with relevant international agencies and with the country's development partners. Bangladesh had acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Nevertheless, further capacity-building of relevant institutions, such as the anti-corruption commission and the Central Bank, was needed. The Government had taken measures to bring back assets that had been illegally transferred abroad, but much remained to be done. The process of repatriating siphoned-off money entailed huge legal complexities which often rendered asset-recovery efforts costly and hazardous. The Government had recently formed a task force to head recovery efforts.

30. National efforts would not succeed without the cooperation and support of the destination country and other stakeholders. Special efforts were needed to overcome legal obstacles between requesting and requested States. Her delegation called upon the international community to lend its full support to Bangladesh in its efforts to recover ill-gotten proceeds of corruption that remained abroad, as the release of those resources would greatly contribute to the country's national development efforts. Despite the entry into force of the Convention against Corruption, no concrete results could be seen. A global partnership was needed to combat the transfer of proceeds of corruption abroad and to facilitate repatriating those assets to their countries of origin.

31. **Mr. Soetarto** (Indonesia) said that greater efforts must be made to strengthen existing mechanisms to support research and development initiatives and to facilitate access to environmentally sound technologies for developing countries. Capacity-building assistance from the developed countries and the international community should be promoted so that developing countries could implement sustainable national strategies for human resources and science and technology.

32. Indonesia was committed to rooting out corruption from the bodies responsible for the nation's economic and political affairs. Legal disincentives were currently utilized to good effect in combating corruption. Indonesia's willingness to host the second session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was another indicator of its commitment. In preparation for that event, the Corruption Eradication Commission of Indonesia had held a regional seminar on making international anti-bribery standards operational in September 2007. Every effort must be made to implement all the provisions of the Convention against Corruption. Increased cooperation between States and their various legal systems must be maintained.

33. International migration and development, although not discussed in the current session of the General Assembly, should continue to be considered. The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in 2007 had played an important role in encouraging key players to discuss pragmatic options for dealing with the issue. Indonesia applauded the effort of the Government of Belgium in convening the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration in

the summer of 2007 in Brussels, and stood ready to support the Government of the Philippines in convening the next forum in late 2008. The Global Migration Group should continue to play an active role in keeping Member States apprised of the status of follow-up to the High-level Dialogue.

34. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation attached great importance to consideration by the General Assembly of the issues of globalization and interdependence. In order to protect the most vulnerable countries from being marginalized and to strike an appropriate balance between international obligations and national priorities, all aspects of globalization must be fair. His Government had consistently called for the effective management of globalization to neutralize its negative effects and to enhance its positive aspects with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As the most universal and representative international organization, the United Nations must play the central coordinating role in such activities.

35. The prevention and eradication of corruption, money-laundering and illicit transfers of funds abroad were equally important in the context of globalization. A priority area for international cooperation in that field should be the recovery of assets obtained illegally and transferred abroad. The transborder nature of corruption made it necessary to expand and strengthen international cooperation in combating it. The Russian Federation's willingness to participate in such efforts had been demonstrated by its ratification in 2006 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption.

36. In accordance with such fundamental international instruments, the Russian Federation would shortly develop and implement an effective and coordinated anti-corruption policy that promoted the participation of society in monitoring the enforcement of anti-corruption legislation as well as the adoption of effective measures to criminalize corruption in national legislation. The Russian Federation was also taking measures to strengthen and consolidate its national anti-corruption legislation, including the adoption in 2001 of a federal law on preventing the legalization (laundering) of funds obtained by criminal means; a Presidential Decree in 2002 which had approved general principles for the conduct of civil servants; and a comprehensive law on combating corruption, drawn up by the State Duma, was currently being negotiated. Mr. Viktor Zubkov, the recently appointed Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, had also emphasized that combating corruption was one of his Government's main priorities.

37. **Mr. Quezada** (Chile) commended the joint initiatives by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to follow up the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society Connect Africa — a project that provided ICT training to engineers and technicians from developing countries — was an outstanding example of that synergy.

38. International efforts to bridge the digital divide between countries and regions must be intensified in order to enable countries to reap the benefits of new information and communications technologies. Chile was implementing a national ICT agenda which included a national computer literacy campaign aimed at enabling all sectors of society to have access to computers, as well as to education and training in computer technology. It was also promoting e-government and developing an appropriate legal framework.

39. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that every effort must be made to ensure that globalization helped reduce the existing asymmetries in international trade, intellectual property regimes and investment flows. In the debate on globalization, greater emphasis should be placed on the protection of juridical rights recognized by international legislation and, in particular, on the fight against organized crime and corruption. Trafficking in persons, drug trafficking, smuggling of chemical precursors, money-laundering and arms trafficking, among other crimes, should be considered from the standpoint of their impact on development. The principle of shared responsibility should be applied, paying special attention to strengthening prevention efforts, international cooperation and technical assistance. Colombia was committed to implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption and promoting international measures for the recovery and repatriation of illegally transferred funds.

40. Progress in science and technology was essential to guaranteeing the sustainability of development and economic growth. It was important to take advantage of the multilateral setting offered by the Organization

for the discussion of science and technology for development and to maintain its intergovernmental nature. Priority should be given to follow-up and implementation of the commitments agreed at the World Summit on the Information Society.

41. **Mr. Gass** (Switzerland) said that Switzerland had made available to States parties to the Convention against Corruption its expertise in asset recovery and had contributed to the implementation of key provisions of chapter V, inter alia by chairing the Vienna working group on the elaboration of article 57 on asset recovery. The Swiss Government had organized three informal seminars on the recovery of assets of politically exposed persons. Switzerland was providing financial support for the International Center for Asset Recovery based in Basel, which worked closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). It had pledged to contribute actively to the Stolen Asset Recovery initiative launched by the World Bank and UNODC. Asset-recovery efforts should be continued, and more resources should be invested in addressing other aspects of the problem, including prevention, identification and prosecution of acts of corruption and promoting the exchange of information and good practices in the area of prevention. The resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly at the current session should clearly mention the need to extend the work on implementation of the Convention to chapters II and III.

42. **Mr. Yao** Wenlong (China) concurred with the Secretary-General's statement, in the report contained in document A/62/303, that globalization should be managed for the benefit of all. Countries were obliged to make the trade-off between formulating national development strategies and submitting to the rules and regimes that increasingly governed international economic relations. Those regimes should take into account the disadvantages faced by developing countries and thus allow them to integrate into the world economy.

43. Three points were paramount in that regard: firstly, developing countries must participate fully and equally in economic decision-making. That could be achieved by reforming the international financial system, establishing an open and just trading system and giving those countries a greater voice in international economic institutions. The United Nations should continue to play a leading role in fostering international cooperation for development.

44. Secondly, developing countries should be granted the leeway to strike a balance between national policies and international commitments. The special situations of those countries should be taken into account when formulating multilateral rules, thereby allowing them to determine their development strategies on the basis of national priorities.

45. Finally, the capacity of developing countries to integrate into the world economy must be enhanced. Universal prosperity could not be achieved when there was an ever-widening gap between the North and the South. The international community, and the developed countries in particular, should fulfil the commitments made at United Nations conferences and summits by increasing ODA and debt relief, opening markets and effecting technology transfers.

46. China had developed remarkably over the previous three decades by combining national development and economic globalization. While it was still a developing country itself, it had been making efforts to assist other developing countries, including in Africa, to enhance their capacity for independent development.

47. Turning to the concept of using science and technology for development, he agreed wholeheartedly that they could help eliminate poverty, improve people's health and attain the Millennium Development Goals. UNCTAD had done commendable work over the years in that connection. His delegation called for strengthened practical measures to improve the training of scientific and technical personnel in developing countries.

48. On the issue of combating corrupt practices and returning assets to their country of origin, the number of States that had signed the United Nations Convention on Corruption demonstrated that there was strong political will to act. Even stronger international collaboration was needed to prevent criminals from using the laws of their countries of residence to escape extradition. Furthermore, a proactive and pragmatic approach should be taken to identifying, tracing and returning assets derived from corruption, so that discrepancies between legal systems could not be used to prevent their repatriation.

49. **Ms. Juul** (Norway) said that the United Nations Convention against Corruption had been a major achievement. Progress must continue on implementation review, asset recovery and technical assistance. A mechanism must be developed to assist countries in implementing the Convention. Such a mechanism would in turn ensure that the provisions on asset recovery functioned as intended, which was of key importance to developing countries. Decisions taken at the first session of the Conference of the States Parties had set in motion several important initiatives. Her delegation called on all parties to make the upcoming second session of the Conference of the States Parties equally productive, particularly by taking further steps to ensure the full implementation of the Convention.

50. She commended the United Nations and the World Bank on their Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, which would address the problem of financial structures in developed countries that facilitated corruption by laundering and hiding stolen assets.

51. Unfortunately, the issue of illicit financial flows from developing countries was being overlooked in the debate on financing for development. Those flows, which included the proceeds of both corruption and criminal activities such as the drug trade, human trafficking and tax evasion, were estimated to total over $1 trillion annually, half of which came from developing countries. That was a huge sum, compared to the $150 billion that was needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It was necessary to gain a better understanding of the impact of the drain of resources from developing countries. Questions about who received those assets, what mechanisms facilitated the flows of illicit funds and whether the right policies and tools were in place to stop them must be examined. Norway wished to place those issues higher on the agenda of the conference for the review of financing for development to be held in Doha in 2008.

52. **Ms.** Aye Aye **Soe** (Myanmar) acknowledged the contributions by UNCTAD, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and UN-Biotech in assisting developing countries to integrate science and technology into their national development plans. She noted that UNCTAD was currently unable to meet all the demands for assistance, and urged development partners to significantly enhance their assistance to developing countries.

53. Her Government recognized that science and technology played a pivotal role in promoting sustainable development. In 1996, it had established the Ministry of Science and Technology to undertake research and development in agriculture, forestry, rural development, industries, health and education. To promote human resource development, the Ministry had established 68 universities and technical colleges throughout the country.

54. While science and technology could help countries achieve sustainable development, the challenge was to make the transfer of technology and know-how affordable for them. Developing countries would require substantial support from developed countries and international agencies to ensure that they benefited from advances in science and technology.

55. **Ms. Rovirosa** (Mexico) said that the rapid rise in the number of States acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption — which had been opened for signature in Mérida, Mexico, in 2003 — was evidence of a serious commitment to combating corruption. She called on all States that had not yet done so to sign the Convention so that it would become universally applicable. The Convention should continue to be given a high profile because it afforded new opportunities for innovative provisions, particularly with respect to asset recovery. Mexico had participated in the work of the three working groups at the first session of the Conference of the States Parties and fully endorsed the Secretary-General's conclusions that the ambitious workplan and mandate of the Convention should be supported, that asset recovery should be pursued openly and collaboratively (although complex technical cases should not be influenced by politics) and that efforts should be made to ensure the full implementation of the Convention (A/62/116, paras. 33 to 35).

56. **Mr. Loh** Seng Kok (Malaysia) said that globalization must be better managed to ensure that its benefits were evenly shared. Changing the rules of the market mid-game, something that often occurred at the behest of the powerful to suit their interests, was a form of protectionism, and was especially reprehensible when, as the Secretary-General had noted in his report, developing countries were becoming increasingly dependent on export markets (A/62/303, para. 46).

57. Future economic growth would be characterized by financial speculation as a source of individual wealth; further escalation in the price of oil; and higher costs related to climate change, which would be increasingly borne by the poor. Three changes to the current international economic system would lead to a more humane form of globalization. Firstly, the power imbalance between the rich and the poor must be corrected. Interdependence was still seen as a zero-sum game, in which one side won only at the expense of the other, rather than as an inter-reliance among all people in which the human chain was only as strong as its weakest link.

58. Secondly, there must be recognition that equal treatment was not synonymous with fair treatment. The principle of the level playing field assumed that all countries were at the same stage of development, which was not the case. Instead, the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries should apply.

59. Thirdly, the international economic structure must be recast in such a way that it amplified, rather than diminished, the strengths of the poor. The current intellectual property regime was an apt illustration of that point: owing to biopiracy and bioprospecting, developing countries were unable to tap into the potential wealth represented by the vast biodiversity and bioresources they possessed. Furthermore, the regime in place created obstacles to the transfer of technology and access to life-saving medicines.

60. To reap the fullest benefits of globalization, rules and norms should be established only with the participation of the large part of the world that was currently excluded from such decision-making. The principles of justice, equity and inclusion must be the cornerstones of a new, more humane international order.

61. **Mr. Jallow** (Gambia) said that the ongoing marginalization of developing countries was due not to globalization itself, but rather to the way in which it was managed. In order to tackle global imbalances and make globalization work for everyone, international cooperation and the global partnership for development must be strengthened. Developing countries had a right to, and bore primary responsibility for, development. They must be given the space to pursue policies and strategies reflecting country-specific environments. Developed countries must meet their commitments on trade, investment and industrial development and development partners should scale up their assistance, in accordance with the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The advanced countries had set the rules of the game in order to shape globalization to further their own interests. It was high time that the global trading system and the international financial architecture were reformed.

62. Science and technology played a critical role in poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The development and adoption of technologies that reflected the needs and specific circumstances of developing countries should be encouraged. The linkage between development and the environment was essential to ensuring sustainable development. The key to sustainable development therefore lay in the recognition of the interdependence of growth, poverty alleviation, science and technology, and sustainable environmental management. In that connection, he welcomed the efforts of UNCTAD, other relevant organizations and development partners aimed at helping developing countries integrate policies relating to science, technology and innovation into their national development plans and strategies.

63. His Government was committed to preventing and combating corrupt practices. The impact of corruption on development and economic growth was such that the world could not afford merely to pay lip service to its eradication. He urged all States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to implement the outcome of the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to that Convention, held in December 2006 in Amman, particularly the initiatives relating to the recovery, transfer and return of assets of illicit origin and the call for technical support and capacity-building in that regard.

64. **Mr. Metelitsa** (Belarus) said that the United Nations should play a leading role in establishing a just international economic order. For globalization to bear fruit, economic information must flow freely, illicit trade must be constrained, and States must rein in excessive arms spending.

65. His Government was taking measures to broaden the use of science and technology in order to achieve sustainable development. UNCTAD and other United Nations entities should increase their assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to help them to adopt new technologies,

particularly information, communications and energy-efficiency technologies. New mechanisms should be established to transfer such technologies to those countries on advantageous terms, while also protecting the rights of intellectual property owners.

66. **Mr. Salim** (India) said that the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/303) highlighted the difficulties faced by developing countries in pursuing national development strategies and reinforced the argument that globalization, while providing tremendous opportunities for progress and prosperity, also presented significant challenges and constraints for developing countries. Indeed, the benefits of globalization were unevenly shared, while its costs were unevenly distributed. He welcomed the report's recognition of the negative impact of capital flows on exchange rate stability, inflation rates and liquidity, and on developing countries' ability to implement counter-cyclical measures (A/62/303, paras. 24 and 25).

67. The traditional macroeconomic policy prescriptions of the Bretton Woods institutions eroded developing countries' policy space and forced them to adopt policies that gave inadequate attention to public investment and social sector development. Problems relating to liquidity in the financial markets of developed countries were tackled with short-term measures to inject liquidity, while similar problems in developing countries were diagnosed as "structural problems". The agricultural policies of developing countries were severely affected by the huge subsidies in developed countries, while the steady reduction in their industrial tariffs had greatly enhanced the risks of the de-industrialization of developing countries. Developing countries also faced unfavourable market access regimes and non-trade barriers. Furthermore, critical technologies in the areas of public health and climate change remained inaccessible and unaffordable for developing countries owing to the intellectual property rights regime. Most importantly, developing countries had no say in shaping the international financial, economic, trade and technological regimes, even though they were the ones most impacted by them.

68. The trade-off between the benefits of accepting international disciplines and rules and the consequent loss of policy space represented a difficult decision for developing countries, many of which lacked the capacity to evaluate all the options and analyse the impact of international rules. The international community must consider the issue of national policy space and international disciplines and commitments as a whole, both when implementing and interpreting existing disciplines and commitments and when deciding on future ones. International regimes must be more flexible, so as to give developing countries the policy space to determine their own development strategies. In order for the benefits of globalization to be shared more evenly, international economic and financial architecture of the time-bound reform was necessary. The process should be overseen by the United Nations.

69. Usually, there was a direct relationship between a country's scientific and technological base and its level of development. Indeed, it was the level of access to and utilization of technology that differentiated developed from developing countries. Developing countries should emphasize access to and acquisition of knowledge in order to boost their development paths. His Government recognized the importance of science and technology in the development process and was actively building capacity with a view to becoming not only a knowledge-producing society, but also a knowledge-sharing and knowledge-consuming society. In addition, developing countries must effectively utilize traditional knowledge and biogenetic resources, and international technology regimes must fully integrate the development dimension. He called for pragmatic ways of promoting collaborative research and development by developed and developing countries. Lastly, he reiterated the importance of the World Summit on the Information Society and its follow-up process and welcomed the enhanced mandate of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

70. **Mr. Al Bayati** (Iraq) said that information and communication technology (ICT) was important not only as a prerequisite for sustainable development but as an economic sector in itself. It opened up new solutions to age-old problems such as poverty, resource enhancement and social justice, and created new opportunities for strengthening democracy, transparency and accountability. The United Nations had played a role in helping developing and less developed nations close the technology gap through various international conferences, as well as through the Secretary-General's 2006 Global Alliance for ICT and Development initiative which had the potential to function as a global forum for dialogue and partnership

with a view to using ICT to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Science and technology should not be the monopoly of the few, but should be available for all individuals and societies to use in the service of sustainable development. Developing countries needed to employ ICT strategies to create information economies that encouraged the development of electronic commerce and electronic Government services, based on open source software to reduce costs.

71. In the past few years, his country had introduced a Ministry of Science and Technology, established mobile phone networks and connected several of its ministries to the Internet. Despite the obstacles it faced, his Government, with assistance from the international community, was investing in ICT infrastructure, establishing research and development centres to bring together scientists and inventors, incorporating ICT into its school curricula with a view to eradicating technological illiteracy, and building an ICT database in accordance with international standards.

72. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) said that, if poorly managed, globalization would deepen inequalities between countries and benefit only a few. If properly managed, however, it could lead to sustained global economic growth and international financial stability. Enhancing the capacity of countries with economies in transition to respond to the challenges of globalization, ensuring favourable market access for their exports and securing foreign direct investment were essential for their development and integration into the world economy. To that end, the international financial, monetary and trading systems must be reformed and developing country participation in global decision-making and norm-setting must be increased.

73. Science and technology, along with education, were key to enhancing national competitiveness and achieving sustained economic growth. Hence the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development. Developing country access to environmentally sound and economically viable technology must be facilitated. Technical assistance from specialized international organizations was particularly important for technology transfer. Kazakhstan's main aim in developing a national innovative system was to ensure sustainable economic growth, promote the development of hi-tech enterprises and mitigate environmental and social problems through the use of new technologies. It had taken concrete steps to create an innovative economy, including adopting a programme on the development of a national innovative system for the period 2005-2015. She also mentioned the creation of three regional technology parks in Kazakhstan and the planned establishment of international scientific centres in various spheres; Kazakhstan's participation in a number of international space projects; the adoption of a State programme for the development of space activities in Kazakhstan; the successful launch, in 2006, of Kazakhstan's first national geostationary communications and rebroadcasting satellite and the planned launch, in the near future, of its second satellite; and Kazakhstan's involvement, together with its partners in the region, in the project to build the "Baiterek" space rocket complex.

74. Corruption was a key element in economic underperformance and a major obstacle to development. Good governance and national apparatuses based on integrity, transparency and accountability were essential to sustainable development and economic growth. Her Government had made combating corruption a priority and was working to prevent corruption in all its forms. She mentioned, in particular, the adoption of anti-corruption legislation and legislation on the civil service; the adoption of a State programme to combat corruption for the period 2006-2010; the implementation of measures to abolish administrative barriers and introduce e-Government; the creation of one-stop public service centres; the development of a code of ethics for civil servants accompanied by salary increases; wide-ranging judicial reform, including the introduction of juries; the creation, in 2007, of a financial intelligence unit; and Kazakhstan's accession, in 2003, to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

75. **Mr. Alahraf** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that while some saw globalization as a way of disseminating the benefits of economic freedom around the world, others saw it as a way of making the rich richer and the poor poorer. While globalization provided genuine opportunities to developing countries, its benefits were uneven due to imbalances in the global system. Fairer international financial and commercial principles should be established to guard against price fluctuations, so that developing countries

did not need to maintain such high levels of foreign currency reserves and could instead invest in production. The efforts of developing countries to restructure their economies and diversify away from commodities towards manufacturing and services should be supported. It should be recognized that privatization and the free market alone would not produce development, and that conditional assistance made it difficult for developing countries to balance international commitments with national priorities. Developed countries needed to increase assistance, and the flow of funds from the developing countries to the developed countries should be adjusted. Care should also be taken, as more and more States became party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, not to politicize that issue.

76. The developed countries also needed to help developing countries overcome the digital divide. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development should be enhanced, and the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society and the 2006 ICT for All Forum, both held in Tunis, should be followed up. More funding was needed to help African policymakers with their plans to create information societies. In that connection, he welcomed the Connect Africa project undertaken jointly by UNCTAD and the Centre des Technologies de l'Information in Geneva to translate the ICT policies of developing countries into action. His country had also recently signed an agreement with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on a $72 million National ICT Project for Capacity Building that would construct a national network to connect Libyan university campuses.

77. **Mr. Reyes** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that globalization was at the heart of the problems facing the international community. For several years, the world's population had been expressing its unhappiness at globalization's devastating impact on the planet. For every international summit, there had been a parallel summit aimed at drawing the attention of world leaders to the consequences of neoliberal globalization.

78. One of the myths surrounding the globalization debate was the supposed interdependence in today's world. In reality, the relationships of dependency inherited from colonial times had allowed the West to dominate, to the detriment of developing countries. In such a context, the concepts of interdependence and integration lacked credibility for the overwhelming majority of the world's population. Interdependence became empty rhetoric when one observed the lack of political will among developed countries to promote development goals. At the same time, an increasing number of conditions and restrictions were placed on developing countries. The global mechanisms of domination and control — including some entities of the international financing system — tried to make it seem that globalization occurred independently of the public and private relationships of world power.

79. Neoliberal globalization had exacerbated poverty and exclusion, and placed multinational economic power at the heart of international production. At the same time, the globalizing forces' unlimited production and consumption undermined environmental sustainability and jeopardized the ability of natural resources to recover. The tendency to homogenize and standardize had gradually eliminated cultural wealth and diversity. The emergence of international economic regimes must not impinge on the policy space of States. The latter must be able to implement their national development strategies in order to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

80. In recent years, the United Nations had bowed to pressure from a number of Member States to give globalization a "human face" and stress its alleged benefits. The Organization's raison d'être was closely linked to the preservation of life, peace and international justice. The globalizing forces threatened the very spirit of the United Nations. A much more analytical and pluralistic examination of the effects of globalization was needed. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supported the establishment of a new international human order based on cooperation, solidarity, complementarity and respect for sovereignty and self-determination.

81. **Mr. Ndjonkou** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that, according to the latest ILO report on global employment trends, around 200 million people were unemployed. Work was central to people's lives. Therefore, jobs often provided the greatest indicator of the success or failure of globalization. The increased prevalence of labour migration clearly demonstrated people's desire — and need — to search for employment. Three years had now passed since the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization had issued its report

entitled "A fair globalization: creating opportunities for all". Globalization continued, yet the outcomes seemed no fairer. In many countries, inequalities had actually widened.

82. While the inadequate governance of globalization persisted, a number of areas had seen progress, indicating that attention was being devoted to the issue. The fundamental challenge today was policy coherence and increased partnerships. To that end, ILO had convened the Forum on Decent Work for a Fair Globalization, currently being held in Lisbon. The Forum brought together a diverse group of participants from the organization's constituency of Governments, employers' organizations and trade unions as well as various civil society organizations and intergovernmental institutions. Its focus was the analysis and promotion of decent work as the key for economic, social and environmental sustainability and as an opportunity to review progress towards ensuring that globalization was fair and more balanced.

83. The Forum would also focus on international labour migration, which was a central element of globalization and of efforts to create decent work opportunities for all. Globalization had facilitated linkages between national labour markets and strengthened migration's push and pull factors. There was a shared responsibility to reduce migration pressures by creating productive, freely chosen employment and decent work, thereby giving workers the right to development while working in their countries of origin. Migration would therefore become a matter of choice, not of necessity. The Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration provided a set of guidelines and best practices to guide countries in the formulation and implementation of labour migration policies, while the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143) and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, provided a normative approach for migrant protection.

84. Work was a source of dignity, stability, peace and credibility of Governments and the economic system. Since reducing decent work deficits went hand in hand with reducing the tensions behind the challenges posed by globalization, the international community must pursue coherent policies that created an environment conducive to decent work. The 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Ministerial Declaration on Employment Generation and Decent Work, adopted at the Economic and Social Council's 2006 substantive session, and resolution 2007/2 on the role of the United Nations system in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all, adopted at the Council's 2007 substantive session, provided enough valuable policy guidance for realizing that overarching goal.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.